

News from the FPPC

California Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620, Sacramento, CA 95814
www.fppc.ca.gov



For Immediate Release: June 14, 2007

Contact: Roman Porter at (916) 322-7761

FPPC Enforcement Decisions: June 14, 2007

The following are enforcement decisions approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission at its regular monthly meeting held in Sacramento on Thursday, June 14, 2007. Decisions are divided by category and include a brief summary of each case and the total amount of any administrative fine or fines in each case.

Additional information on each of the enforcement cases below can be found in the June agenda on the FPPC website at www.fppc.ca.gov. FPPC agendas are distributed and posted on the agency website 10 days prior to each monthly meeting.

The web version of the agenda includes links to the stipulations agreed to by the commission and by the individuals and organizations subject to the fines, or the default decisions proposed to the commission. Exhibits in support of the stipulations and proposed default decisions are also available on the website. If you are unable to access the FPPC website, or need further assistance, please call the FPPC communications office at (916) 322-7761.

Money Laundering

California law requires those giving or receiving monetary contributions of \$100 or more to affect the outcome of political contests to provide certain information identifying the contributor, their employer and the amount of the contribution. Providing the public with the sources of contributions is a fundamental component of the philosophy of the Political Reform Act.

The following concealed the true source of campaign contributions:

Robert J. Matkovich and Robert J. Matkovich, D.D.S., Inc., a licensed dentist, and his dental corporation, located in Chula Vista, paid a **\$99,000 fine** for concealing the true source of 21 contributions, totaling \$5,250. The illegal contributions were made to the campaign committee of Chula Vista mayoral candidate Steve Padilla between December 5, 2001, and September 4, 2002. The contributions were made in the names of employees and business associates of Matkovich, or their friends and family. Matkovich also violated the law by making cash contributions over \$100 to candidate Steve Padilla on or about September 3 and 4, 2002.

—more—

Lobbyist Reporting

California law requires individuals and entities that attempt to influence the actions of certain state-level elected officials and public officials to register as lobbyists once certain criteria is met. Once registered, lobbyists and lobbying firms are required to provide reports to provide the public with information regarding who they are attempting to influence; what decision(s) they are attempting to influence; and who is employing them and how much they are receiving to influence.

The following failed to file the required forms:

L. Scott Spahnn and Associates and Leslie Scott Spahnn, a registered lobbying firm, and a registered lobbyist, paid a **\$6,400 fine** for failing to file three quarterly lobbyist firm reports in paper and electronically.

Statements of Economic Interests

California law requires elected officials, certain board members and governmental employees, and consultants employed by governmental entities to fill out Statements of Economic Interests (SEIs or Form 700s). SEIs serve a dual purpose: they make a filer aware of personal economic interests relative to a governmental decision, and they are an important disclosure document for the public and media.

The following individuals failed to file their Statement of Economic Interests forms on time or omitted required information:

- **Christie Stanley**, an Assistant District Attorney for the County of Santa Barbara, paid a **\$300 fine** for failing to timely disclose information regarding an investment interest on her 2002 annual statement of economic interests.
- **Joseph Edmiston**, a member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, et al., paid a **\$100 fine** for failing to timely file his 2005 annual statement of economic interests.

Major Donor

A major donor is a person or entity who makes contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year and is required to file campaign reports detailing how much was contributed and to whom.

The following failed to file major donor reports as required by law:

- **National Audubon Society, Inc.**, of Emeryville, paid a **\$1,800 fine** for failing to timely file semi-annual campaign statements disclosing contributions totaling \$100,000 in 2005 and \$10,000 in 2006.
- **Stephen J. Luczo**, of Scotts Valley, paid a **\$1,400 fine** for failing to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement disclosing contributions totaling \$100,000 in 2006.

- **Kosti Shirvanian/Komar Investments/Chino Industrial Commons, LLC/Pacific Waste, Inc.**, of Newport Beach, paid a **\$400 fine** for failing to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement disclosing contributions totaling \$19,500 in 2006.
- **Frank G. Myers**, of Atherton, paid an **\$800 fine** for failing to timely file semi-annual campaign statements disclosing contributions totaling \$21,200 in 2005.
- **Susan Myers**, of Atherton, paid a **\$400 fine** for failing to timely file a semi-annual campaign statement disclosing contributions totaling \$11,200 in 2005.

Late Contribution

When contributions of \$1,000 or more are made or received during the final days of an election—the time between the last campaign report required to be filed and the end of the election—late contribution reports must be filed within 24 hours of making the “late” contribution.

The following failed to file late contribution reports as required by the Political Reform Act:

- **Sturdevant Law Firm, A Professional Corporation**, of San Francisco, paid a **\$3,500 fine** for failing to timely disclose a late contribution totaling \$150,000 in 2004.
- **Bridge Housing Corp.**, of San Francisco, paid a **\$2,625 fine** for failing to timely disclose a late contribution totaling \$17,500 in 2006.
- **Gale Marshall**, of Livermore, paid a **\$1,530 fine** for failing to timely disclose a late contribution totaling \$10,200 in 2005.
- **Benjamin C. Hammett**, of Palo Alto, paid a **\$1,500 fine** for failing to timely disclose a late contribution totaling \$10,000 in 2005.

###